



Community Involvement
Phase I – Parameters of Service

January 2015

WELCOME

- ▶ Staff introductions
- ▶ Ground rules
- ▶ Orbit Saturn – Tempe South development steps
- ▶ Today's meeting purpose
- ▶ Orbit purpose, facts, and history
- ▶ Route parameters
- ▶ Approval process
- ▶ Implementation timeline
- ▶ Contact us

GROUND RULES

- ▶ Be respectful
- ▶ Goals:
 - ▶ inform community about the program
 - ▶ solicit community input
 - ▶ provide a recommendation to City Council
- ▶ We will do our best to answer questions; if information isn't immediately available, we will follow up.
- ▶ *Please submit written comment cards to ensure that your opinion is recorded.*
- ▶ *Comment period for Phase I: Jan. 21 – Feb. 8.*

DEVELOPMENT STEPS

- ▶ Orbit Saturn – Tempe South development
 - ▶ Phase I – Develop route parameters *(January 2015)*
 - ▶ Solicit community input
 - ▶ Develop draft route(s) and service scenario based on community input
 - ▶ Phase II – Present draft route(s) for public feedback *(April 2015)*
 - ▶ Solicit community input
 - ▶ Develop final proposed route and service scenario
 - ▶ Phase III – Present final proposed route *(September 2015)*
 - ▶ Present final proposal for feedback
 - ▶ Refine route and service scenario as needed


PUPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- ▶ Familiarize you with the existing transit network
- ▶ Introduce route development process
- ▶ Gain your insight regarding route parameters
 - ▶ Hours of service
 - ▶ Frequency
 - ▶ Operating days
 - ▶ Places of interest

ORBIT HISTORY

- ▶ 1996: Tempe Transit Tax approved by Tempe voters (including Neighborhood Circulator buses).
- ▶ 2001: Neighborhood Flash circulator began operating; later became Mercury & Venus.
- ▶ 2006: Planning began for Neighborhood Circulator program expansion north of US-60.
- ▶ 2007-08: Five Orbit routes began operating.
- ▶ 2007-08: Planning began for Neighborhood Circulator program expansion south of US-60; planning process halted due to declining tax revenues.

ORBIT BASICS

- ▶ Operations funded by half-cent Tempe Transit Sales Tax revenues
 - ▶ Uses small buses to move people from neighborhoods to local places of interest and provide convenient links to major transit routes
 - ▶ Passengers use Orbit to connect to multiple transit routes to reach destinations throughout Tempe and the region
 - ▶ Capital costs are funded by a combination of local, regional, and federal funds
 - ▶ Orbit is currently a free-fare service
 - ▶ In FY 2014, Orbit system had more than 2.6 million boardings
 - ▶ In FY 2014, the operating cost for Orbit system was \$6.5 million
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ORBIT BUSES – INSIDE & OUT

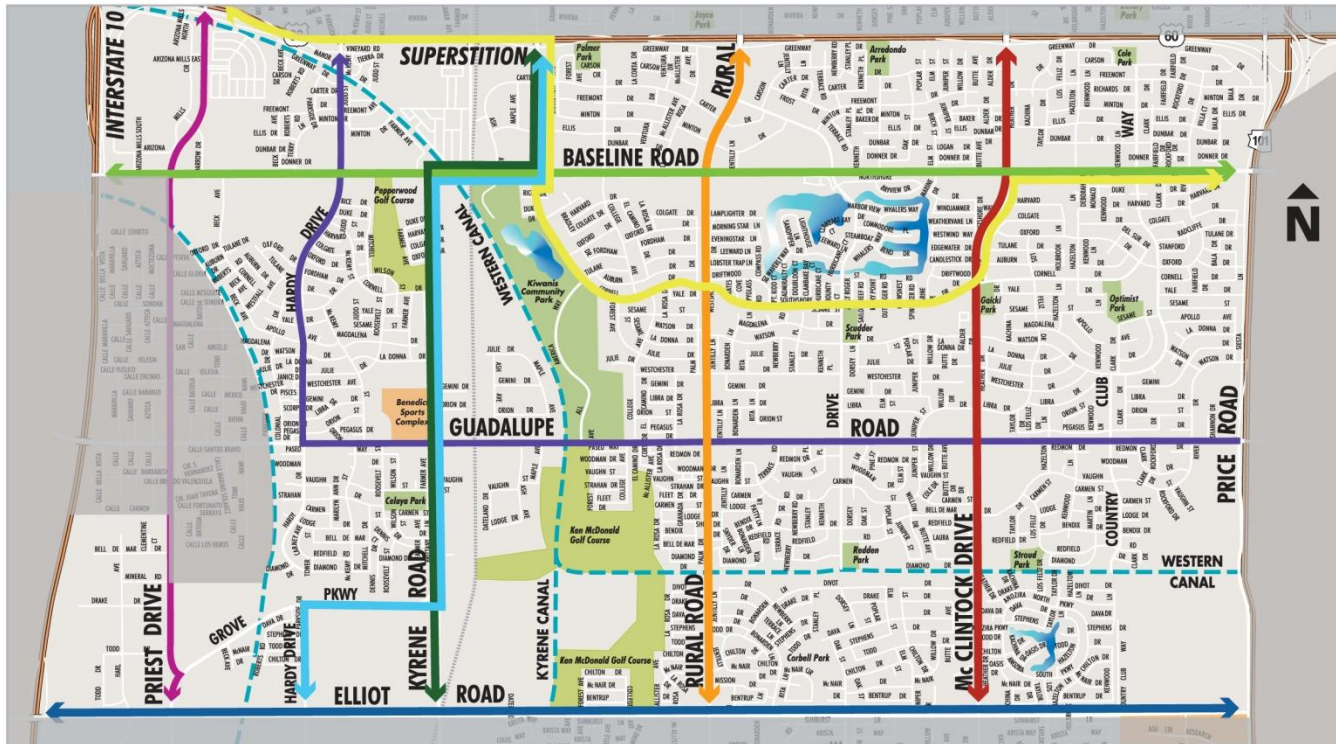


- ▶ Powered by CNG or Gasoline
- ▶ 24' long x 8' wide
- ▶ Rack with space for 2 bicycles
- ▶ Quiet operation
- ▶ A slightly larger bus type was tested in 2013 and may be used on some Orbit routes in the future

- ▶ 17 seats with room for 6 standees
- ▶ Wheelchair lift and space for 2 mobility aids
- ▶ Fully climate controlled



ORBIT SATURN PLANNING AREA



Bus routes in this area:

- 56 - Priest
- 62 - Hardy/Guadalupe
- 65 - Mill/Kyrene
- 66 - Mill/Kyrene
- 72 - Rural
- 77 - Baseline
- 81 - McClintock
- 108 - Elliot
- 521 - Express to Phoenix

ROUTE PARAMETERS

- ▶ Annual operating budget – \$1.2 million for the first year
- ▶ Route will travel within the planning area only
- ▶ Route will operate two-way with the possible exception of turnaround loops

LENGTH OF ROUTE

Route length = Budget ÷ Cost per Mile ÷ Trips per Year

- ▶ Budget: \$1.2 million
- ▶ Cost per Mile: \$6.40
- ▶ Trips per Year: varies based on
 - ▶ Service span: hours of operation per day
 - ▶ Frequency: minutes between bus trips
 - ▶ Operating days: days of week route operates
- ▶ Longer service span and/or higher frequency = less route length
- ▶ *Please submit a comment card and tell us what is most important to you*

PLACES OF INTEREST

- ▶ Work destinations
- ▶ Recreation opportunities
- ▶ Shopping districts
- ▶ Regional connections
- ▶ *Please submit a comment card and tell us what is most important to you*

APPROVAL & IMPLEMENTATION

- ▶ Jan. 6: Transportation Commission meeting – *introduction*
- ▶ Jan. 21 & 24: Community meetings – *Phase I*
- ▶ April 14: Transportation Commission meeting – *results from Phase I*
- ▶ April 29 & May 2: Community meetings – *Phase II*
- ▶ Sept. 9 & 12: Community meetings – *Phase III*
- ▶ Oct. 13: Transportation Commission meeting – *results from Phase III*
- ▶ Dec. 3, 2015: City Council meeting – *final recommendation*
- ▶ If program is approved by City Council:
 - ▶ Jan. 2016: Procure Orbit vehicles
 - ▶ Nov. 2016: Valley Metro New Service Implementation Process Initiated
 - ▶ Feb. 2017 or Aug. 2017: Infrastructure/signs for Orbit stops
 - ▶ **April 2017 or October 2017: Implement route**

CONTACT US

- ▶ Online comment form available Jan. 21 – Feb. 8

- ▶ www.tempe.gov/orbit

- ▶ Transit Operations

- ▶ Mike Nevarez michael_nevarez@tempe.gov (480) 858-2209

- ▶ Jason Hartong jason_hartong@tempe.gov (480) 350-2747

- ▶ Community Involvement Liaison

- ▶ Shauna Warner shauna_warner@tempe.gov (480) 350-8883

- ▶ Mayor and City Council Members

- ▶ www.tempe.gov/city-hall/mayor-and-city-council